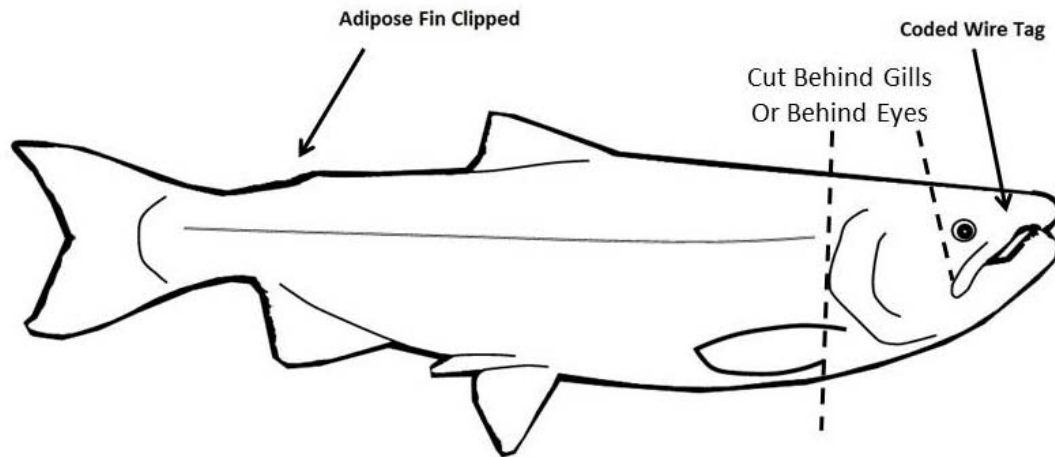
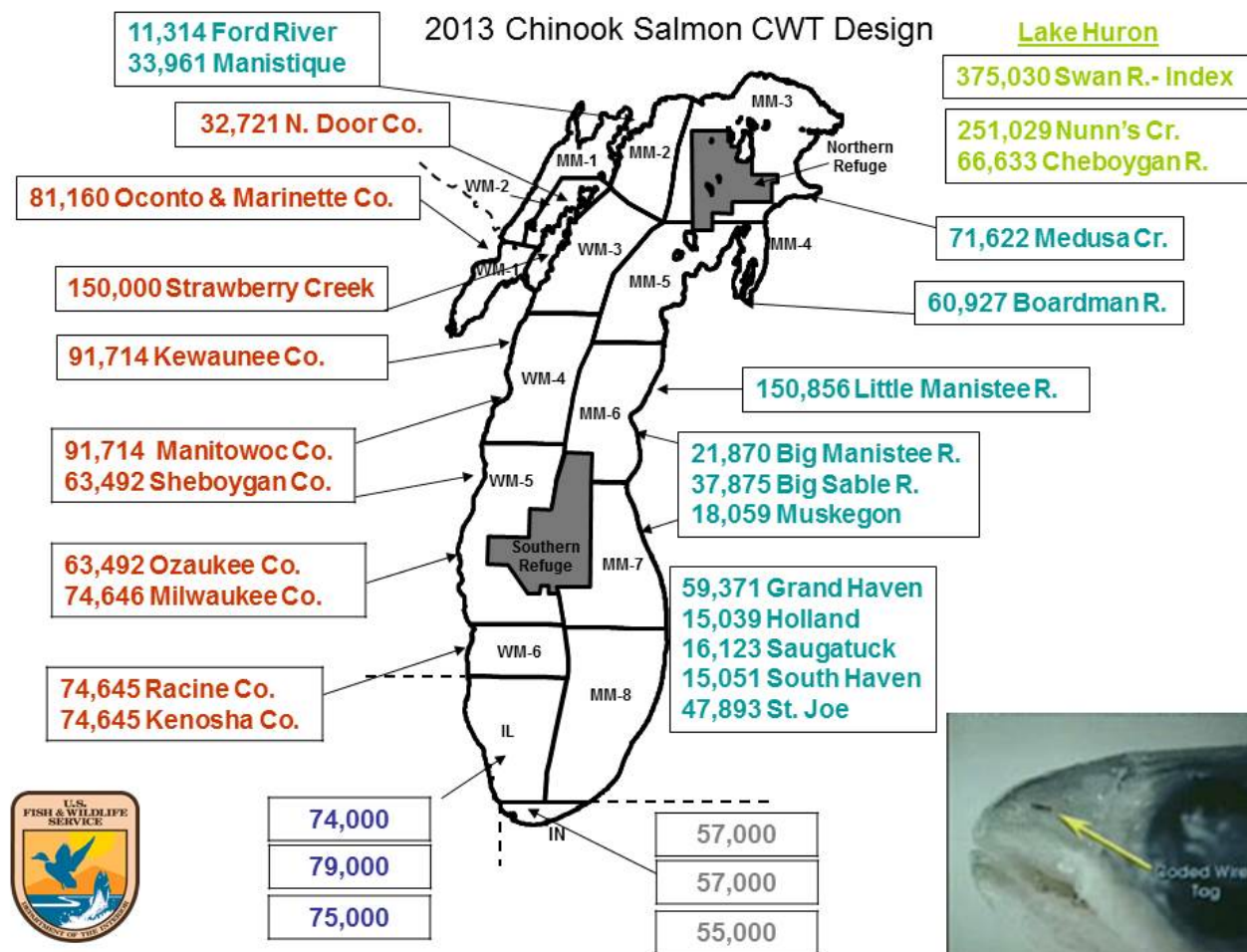


Guidelines for Volunteer Collection Of Coded Wire Tags (CWTs)



- Great Lakes salmon and trout are marked with an adipose fin clip if they have a Coded Wire Tag in their snout.
- You cannot remove or read the microscopic tag, but you can remove the head (or snout behind the eye) and drop it off at one of many locations in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana.
- Removing and submitting heads is NOT REQUIRED for *Salmon Ambassadors* volunteers, but it is the only way to determine where a marked fish was stocked.
- Heads should be frozen or kept cold prior to drop-off.
- Details on drop-off sites, stocking locations, and data requirements for forms can be found on the following pages.

FOR 2016 — If you wish to provide data for the *Salmon Ambassadors* program AND collect the snout of EACH AND EVERY fin-clipped Chinook Salmon that is caught from your boat May-September please contact Dan at okeefed@msu.edu.



Hatchery-reared Chinook stocked in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are marked with an adipose fin clip (AD clip) and coded wire tag (CWT). Each coded wire tag carries a series of digits that can be used by biologists to identify the stocking location of the fish according to the map above.

Each box indicates a group of fish marked with a batch of tags in 2013. Sites grouped within a box have similar CWT batch numbers. This means that a salmon stocked in Holland may not be distinguishable from a fish stocked in Grand Haven, but both Holland and Grand Haven fish will be distinguishable from Big Sable River fish.

Numbers for each stocking site do not necessarily equal the exact number of Chinook salmon stocked at each location in 2013. Wisconsin numbers reflect quotas established by WDNR as target stocking rates for each site. Michigan numbers are from the MDNR stocking database but do not include a small number of unmarked Chinook salmon stocked in the Ford River and at other locations by Salmon in the Classroom participants. Illinois and Indiana stocking numbers are approximations from USFWS.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division
CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY

Complete using pencil.

Name of Angler (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Date Caught	Capture Coordinates Lat. Long.	Grid No.
Street or Route Address Apt. #	Capture Port & Location		
City, State, ZIP	Capture Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Superior <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> Huron <input type="checkbox"/> Erie <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Would you want a reward lure? (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Source <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Census <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Weir <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Species (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Chinook Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Trout <input type="checkbox"/> Coho Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow (Steelhead) <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout	Length (nearest 1/10 in.)	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
	Weight (nearest 1/10 lb.)	Maturity <input type="checkbox"/> Mature <input type="checkbox"/> Immature	

Place data in a bag with head and freeze. Take bag to the nearest "head" drop site or contact:

CHARLEVOIX GREAT LAKES STATION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
96 GRANT STREET
CHARLEVOIX MI 49720

Telephone: (231) 547-2914

DNR USE ONLY						
Management Unit	OTC	Scales	ID Number	Collector	Length (mm)	Weight (gm)

PR8550 (Rev. 01/12/2007)



Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division
CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY

Complete using pencil.

Name of Angler (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Date Caught	Capture Coordinates Lat. Long.	Grid No.
Street or Route Address Apt. #	Capture Port & Location		
City, State, ZIP	Capture Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Superior <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> Huron <input type="checkbox"/> Erie <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Would you want a reward lure? (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Source <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Census <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Weir <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Species (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Chinook Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Trout <input type="checkbox"/> Coho Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow (Steelhead) <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout	Length (nearest 1/10 in.)	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
	Weight (nearest 1/10 lb.)	Maturity <input type="checkbox"/> Mature <input type="checkbox"/> Immature	

Place data in a bag with head and freeze. Take bag to the nearest "head" drop site or contact:

CHARLEVOIX GREAT LAKES STATION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
96 GRANT STREET
CHARLEVOIX MI 49720

Telephone: (231) 547-2914

DNR USE ONLY						
Management Unit	OTC	Scales	ID Number	Collector	Length (mm)	Weight (gm)

PR8550 (Rev. 01/12/2007)

These forms can be copied and used for heads (or snouts) from Michigan or Indiana waters. A list of Michigan drop-off sites follows, and Indiana anglers can submit heads to creel clerks to INDNR at:

100 W. Water Street
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY FORM

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

SPECIES (CIRCLE ONE)	SEX (CIRCLE ONE)	SOURCE (CIRCLE ONE)
CHINOOK	MALE	SPORT
COHO	FEMALE	CHARTER
RAINBOW	UNKNOWN	
LAKE		
BROWN		

DATE CAUGHT __ __ / __ __ / __ __ m m d d y y	CAPTURE LOCATION (port or river)
LENGTH (circle one) __ __ . __ __ inches mm	WEIGHT (circle one) __ __ . __ __ pounds kg

Please Print Clearly

Angler Name

E-Mail

Home Address

City

State

Zip Code

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CODED WIRE TAG RECOVERY FORM

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

SPECIES (CIRCLE ONE)	SEX (CIRCLE ONE)	SOURCE (CIRCLE ONE)
CHINOOK	MALE	SPORT
COHO	FEMALE	CHARTER
RAINBOW	UNKNOWN	
LAKE		
BROWN		

DATE CAUGHT __ __ / __ __ / __ __ m m d d y y	CAPTURE LOCATION (port or river)
LENGTH (circle one) __ __ . __ __ inches mm	WEIGHT (circle one) __ __ . __ __ pounds kg

Please Print Clearly

Angler Name

E-Mail

Home Address

City

State

Zip Code

CWT (Coded Wire Tag) DROP SITES IN MICHIGAN

County	Organization Name	Address	Apt or PO Box	City	State	Zip Code	Work Phone	Notes
Allegan	Big Lake Outfitters	640 Water St		Saugatuck	MI	49453-	(269)-857-4762	
	DNR Plainwell Operations Service Center	621 N 10th St		Plainwell	MI	49080-	(269) 685-6851	
	Lake Shore Outfitters	6398 Blue Star Hwy		Saugatuck	MI	49453	(269) 857-2248	
Alpena	AA Quality Taxidermy	10853 Ossineke Rd		Ossineke	MI	49766-	(989) 471-2433	
	Buck's Bait & Tackle	8501 US 23 South		Alpena	MI	49707-	(989)-595-2121	May through Sept
	DNR Alpena Fisheries Station	160 E Fletcher St		Alpena	MI	49707-	(989) 356-3232	M-F 8:00a-4:00p
	Alpena City Boat Launch			Alpena	MI	49707		Freezer in fish cleaning station
	Limited Edition Taxidermy	3153 US 23 South		Alpena	MI	49707-	(989)-356-3600	
Alcona	Harrisville State Park Office	248 State Park Rd		Harrisville	MI	49740	(989)-724-5126	
Baraga	DNR Baraga Operations Service Center	427 US 41 North		Baraga	MI	49908-	(906) 353-6651	
Barry	AI & Pete's Sport Shop	111 S Jefferson St		Hastings	MI	49058-	(616) 945-4417	
Bay	DNR Bay City Operations Service Center	3580 State Park Dr		Bay City	MI	48706-	(989) 684-9141	M-F 8:00a - 5:00p
Benzie	DNR Platte River Fish Hatchery	15210 US 31		Beulah	MI	49617-	(231) 325-4611	M-F 8:00a-4:30p
	East Shore Marina	324 Lake St		Frankfort	MI	49635-		May through Sept
	Frankfort Municipal Ramp			Frankfort	MI	49635-	(231) 352-9051	
	Kris' Tackle Shop	100 Frankfort Ave		Elberta	MI	49628	(231) 352-2628	
Berrien	BJ Sports	4298 Niles Rd		St Joseph	MI	49085	(269)	
	Captain Cooks	125 N Whittaker		New Buffalo	MI	49117-	(269) 469-4510	
	Shamrock Park Campground	St Joseph River at the	308	Berrien Springs	MI	49103-	(269) 473-5691	Freezer in
		Bridge						fish cleaning station
	Tackle Haven	741 Riverview Dr		Benton Harbor	MI	49022-	(269) 925-0341	
Charlevoix	DNR Charlevoix Fisheries Station	96 Grant St		Charlevoix	MI	49720-	(231) 547-2914	M-F 7:30a-4:00p
	Ferry Beach Boat Launch			Charlevoix	MI	49720		Freezer in fish cleaning station
Cheboygan	City Boat Launch			Cheboygan	MI	49721-		Freezer in fish cleaning station
Chippewa	LSSU Aquatics Lab	Edison Sault Power Plant		Sault Ste Marie	MI	49783-	(906) 635-1949	
	North Country Sports	103 Ontario St		Detour Village	MI	49725-	(906) 297-6461	
Delta	Bayshore Bait & Tackle	1323 N Lakeshore Dr		Gladstone	MI	49837-	(906) 428-2950	
	DNR Escanaba Operations Service Center	6833 Hwy 2 (M-41 & M-35)		Escanaba	MI	49837-	(906) 786-2351	
	Fairport Marina	M-183		Fairport	MI			Freezer at fish cleaning station
Eaton	Fitzgerald Park	133 Fitzgerald Park		Grand Ledge	MI	48837-	(517) 627-7351	
Emmett	DNR Oden Visitor Center	3377 1/2 Oden Rd		Oden	MI	49764-	(231) 347-4689	Do not drop heads at hatchery due disease spreading potential
Genesee	Fishing Tackle Grab Bag	5521 North State St		Davison	MI	48423-	(810) 653-4771	
Grand Traverse	DNR Traverse City Field Office	970 Emerson Rd		Traverse City	MI	49686	(231) 922-5280	
Huron	Huron Marina (Grindstone city)	3379 Pte. Aux-Barques Rd		Port Austin	MI	48467-	(989) 738-7558	Open all year
	Let's Go Fishing	731 N Huron Ave		Harbor Beach	MI	48441-	(989) 479-0777	
	Off Shore Marine	5 Lyle Ave		Harbor Beach	MI	48441-	(989) 479-6064	Open all year

CWT (Coded Wire Tag) DROP SITES IN MICHIGAN

Ingham	Grand River Bait & Tackle	536 E Grand River Ave		Lansing	MI	48906-	(517) 482-4461	
Iosco	Bunyan Town Fishing Tackle	4494 N US 23		Oscoda	MI	48750-	(989) 739-2371	open May through 2nd week of Oct.
	Dockside	106 S. Newman		Tawas City	MI	48763-		
	AuSable River Store	680 West River Rd		Oscoda	MI	49750	989-739-2869	Open all year
	The Dam Store	1879 E River Rd		Oscoda	MI	49750-	(989) 739-9979	open all year
	Wellman Sport Center	410 S State		Oscoda	MI	49750-	(989) 739-2869	Open all year
Iron	DNR Crystal Falls Operations Service Center	US 2 West	300	Crystal Falls	MI	49920-	(906) 875-6622	
Kalamazoo	D&R Sports	8178 W Main		Kalamazoo	MI	49009-	(269) 672-2277	
Kent	AI & Bobs Sports Inc	3100 S Division		Grand Rapids	MI		(616) 245-9156	
	Brenners Auto Service	4765 W River Dr		Comstock Park	MI	49231-	(616) 784-9872	
	TBN Outfitters	735 Bridge St NW		Grand Rapids	MI	49504-	(616) 458-0922	
	Sparta Sport Shop	169 N State		Sparta	MI	49345-	(616) 887-8661	
Leelanau	Carlson fisheries	205 River St		Leland	MI	49654-	(231) 256-9801	
Luce	DNR Newberry Operation Service Center	5100 State Hwy M123		Newberry	MI	49868	(989) 293-5131	M-F 8:00a - 5:00p
Mackinac	Straits State Park Office	720 Church St		St Ignace	MI	49781	(906)-643-8620	
	Nunn's Creek Fisheries Enhancement Center	HC47	8100	Hessel	MI	49745-	(906)-484-2391	
Macomb	DNR Lake St Clair Fisheries Station	33135 S River Rd		Mt Clemens	MI	48043-	(586) 465-4771	M-F 8:00a - 5:00p
Manistee	Andy's Tackle Box	147559 Coates Hwy		Brethren	MI	49619-	(231) 477-5737	Open year round
	First Street Boat Launch _ Manistee	First Street		Manistee	MI			Freezer at fish cleaning station
	Fisherman's Headquarters	17682 Caberfae Hwy (M-55)		Wellston	MI	49689-	(231) 848-4242	Open year round
	Insta-Launch Marina & Campsites	20 Park Ave		Manistee	MI	49660-	(231) 723-3901	
	The Tangled Tackle	48 Arthur St		Manistee	MI	49660	(231) 887-4242	
	Pappy's Bait & Tackle	M-55		Wellston	MI	49689	(231) 848-4142	open year round
	Portage Lake Marina	5159 Main St		Onkama	MI	49660-	(231) 889-4671	
	Riverside Motel	520 Water St		Manistee	MI	49660-	(231) 723-3554	
	Ship Watch Marine	297 Sixth Ave		Manistee	MI	49660-	(231) 723-9314	
	Solberg's Marina	Arthur Street		Manistee	MI	49660-		Leave Heads in freezer near fish cleaning station
Marinette	MBK Sport Shop	1509 Main St		Marinette	WI	54143	(715) 735-5393	
Marquette	DNR Marquette Operation Service Center	1990 US 41 South		Marquette	MI	49855-	(906) 228-6561	Do not drop heads at hatchery due disease spreading potential
Mason	Loomis Street Boat Launch - Ludington	Loomis St		Ludington	MI			Freezer at fish cleaning station
	Ludington Municipal Marina	Water St		Ludington	MI	49431-		Attn: Jim Karr
	Captain Chucks, Inc.	5770 W US 10		Ludington	MI	49431	(231) 843-4458	
	USFWS Sea Lamprey Control	229 S Jebavy Dr		Ludington	MI	49431-	(231) 845-6205	Will only accept Lake Trout Heads
Menominee	Martin Creek Sport-n-Feed	N1066		Menominee	MI	49858	(906) 863-4868	
Muskegon	Bruce's Northshore Angler	2008 Lake Ave		North Muskegon	MI		(231) 744-5992	
	Fisherman's Landing	Giddings Ave		Muskegon	MI	49444-	(231) 726-6100	Open May thru Sept
	DNR Hoffmaster State Park	6585 Lake Harbor Rd		Muskegon	MI	49441-	(231) 798-3711	
	DNR Snug Harbor Boat launch			Muskegon	MI	49441		Freezer at fish cleaning station
	DNR Muskegon State Game	7600 E Messinger Rd		Twin Lakes	MI	49457-	(231) 788-5055	M-F 8:00a -

CWT (Coded Wire Tag) DROP SITES IN MICHIGAN

	DNR Muskegon State Game	7600 E Messinger Rd		Twin Lakes	MI	49457-	(231) 788-5055	M-F 8:00a -
	area Field Office							5:00p
	Shoreline Service Bait & Tackle	2080 Lakeshore Dr		Muskegon	MI	49444-	(231) 744-3480	
	Snug Harbor Motel and Tackle Shop	3492 Memorial Dr		Muskegon	MI	49445	(231) 744-3440	
Newaygo	Croton Bay Trading Post	6457 Croton-Hardy Dr		Newaygo	MI	49337-	(231) 652-2250	
	Parseley's Sport Shop	70 S State Rd		Newaygo	MI	49337-	(231) 652-6986	
Oceana	Pentwater City Marina			Pentwater	MI	49449-	(231) 869-7028	Freezer at fish cleaning station
Otsego	DNR Gaylord Operations Service Center	1732 W M32		Gaylord	MI	49735	(989) 732-3541	
Ottawa	Gold Coast Outfitters	6755 Butternut Dr.		West Olive	MI	49460-	(616) 786-9314	
	Chinook Pier	301 N Harbor		Grand Haven	MI	49417-		Contact Charter dock operator
	DNR Holland Boat Launch	Ottawa Beach Rd		Holland	MI	49424-	(616) 399-9390	Late May through Sept at the fish cleaning station
	Limit Out Sports	13664 Cleveland Ave		Spring Lake	MI		(616) 935-6985	
	Lake View Marine & Tackle	245 Beach St		Grand Haven	MI	49417	(616) 842-2770	
Presque Isle	Rogers City Boat Harbor	270 Lake St		Rogers City	MI	49779-	(517)-734-3808	Late May through Sept at the fish cleaning station
Sanilac	Port Sanilac Boat Launch			Port Sanilac	MI			Freezer at Fish Cleaning Station
Schoolcraft	DNR Thompson Fish Hatchery	Rt. 149		Manistique	MI	49854-	(906) 341-5587	
Van Buren	Black River Boat Launch-South Haven			South Haven	MI			Freezer at Fish Cleaning
								Station
	DNR Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery	34270 CR 652		Mattawan	MI	49071-	(616) 688-2696	M-F 8:00a - 5:00p
Wayne	DNR Southfield Operations Service Center	26000 W Eight Mile Rd		Southfield	MI	48034	(248) 359-9040	M-F 8:00a - 5:00p
Wexford	DNR Cadillac Operations Service Center	8015 Mackinac Trail		Cadillac	MI	49701-	(231) 775-9727	M-F 8:00a-5:00p
	DNR Harrietta Field Office	6801 30 Mile Rd		Harrietta	MI	49638-	(231) 389-2551	Do not drop heads at hatchery due disease spreading potential



CWT (coded wire tag) DEPOSIT STATIONS

AREA	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
ALGOMA	Algoma Hardware 513 4th St., Algoma	920-487-3374
BAILEYS HARBOR	Town Marina 8132 Hwy. 57, Baileys Harbor	920-839-9778
GREEN BAY	Department of Natural Resources 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay (Hours - Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 4PM)	920-662-5100
KENOSHA	Gander Mountain 6802 118 th Ave., Kenosha	262-857-3757
KEWAUNEE	Accurate Marine and Storage 203 Dodge St., Kewaunee	920-388-2326
MARINETTE	A&K Feed, Seed, & Bait 1616 Shore Dr., Marinette	715-732-6100
MILWAUKEE	Gander Mountain 6939 S. 27 th St., Franklin	414-761-1500
	DNR, UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences 600 E. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee (Hours vary - Monday-Thursday - call ahead)	414-382-7929
PESHTIGO	Peshtigo Shell Gas Station 815 French St., Peshtigo	715-582-3681
	Department of Natural Resources 101 N. Ogden Rd., Peshtigo (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11AM – 2PM)	715-582-5000
PORT WASHINGTON	Port Washington Marina 106 N. Lake St., Port Washington	262-284-6606
RACINE	Turk's Bait 2950 93 rd St., Sturtevant	262-886-3061
	Department of Natural Resources 9531 Rayne Rd., Suite 4, Sturtevant (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11AM – 2PM)	262-884-2300
SHEBOYGAN	The Wharf 733 Riverfront Dr., Sheboygan	920-458-4406
	Department of Natural Resources 1155 Pilgrim Rd., Plymouth (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11AM – 2PM)	920-892-8756
STURGEON BAY	Howie's Tackle 1309 Green Bay Rd., Sturgeon Bay	920-746-9916
	Department of Natural Resources 110 S. Neenah Ave., Sturgeon Bay (Hours - Monday-Friday, 11AM – 2PM)	920-746-2860
TWO RIVERS	Seagull Sports Marina 1400 Lake St., Two Rivers	920-794-7533



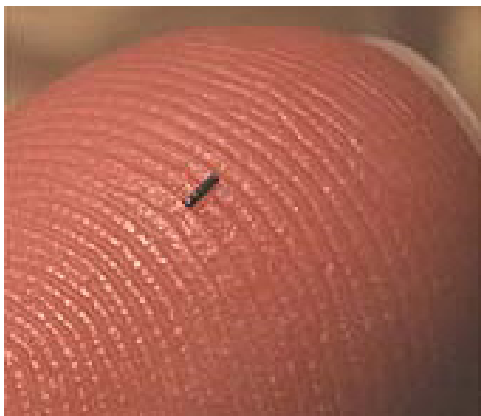
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Lakes Mass Marking Program

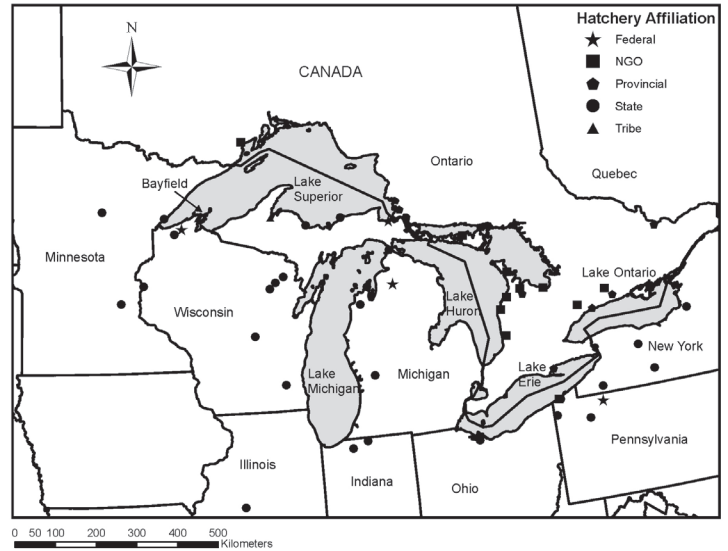
Great Lake states and tribes, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service, annually stock millions of salmon and trout to restore native fish populations, diversify sport fisheries, and control invasive forage fishes. However, little is known about how well these fish survive, contribute to the fisheries, and reproduce in the wild. To meet this information need, the Fish and Wildlife Service coordinates with state, tribal, and federal hatcheries to insert a coded-wire tag (CWT) and clip the adipose fin for all salmon and trout stocked in the Great Lakes. This “mass marking” of all fish stocked is the only technique that allows managers to learn the effectiveness of their stocking efforts, determine how many wild fish contribute to the fish community and fisheries, and balance the predator abundance to the prey fish available.



The picture above shows a coded-wire tag that has been inserted into the snout of a young salmon prior to stocking. Below - The relative size of a coded-wire tag is apparent in this image of a single tag displayed on a finger tip.



Northwest Marine Technology photos



Location of state, federal, tribal, and provincial hatcheries potentially involved in mass marking of salmon and trout stocked into the Great Lakes

After considering many tags and marking options, a CWT combined with an adipose fin clip (an external mark) was the most attractive method to meet the objectives of the Great Lakes marking program. A CWT is a 1.1 mm long stainless steel wire marked with serial numbers denoting a specific group of fish. The tag is injected into the nasal cartilage of a fish prior to stocking, and is extracted at recapture and viewed under a microscope to determine the code. As tagged fish are recovered over time, this information can inform biologists of key population characteristics such as survival, movement, contribution to fisheries, growth, and levels of natural reproduction. This tagging and marking method has proven reliable and feasible, and has been used extensively for decades in the Pacific Northwest of America for salmon and steelhead management.



Northwest Marine Technology

Region 3 - Midwest Region

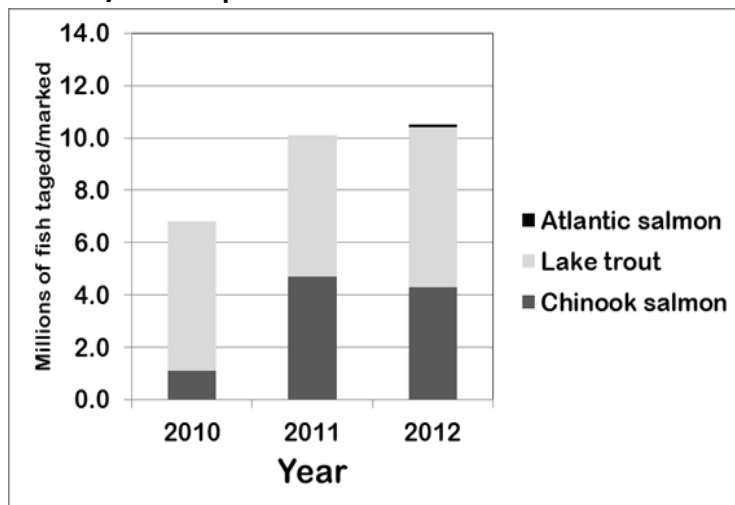
The centerpiece of the Great Lakes marking program is the automated tagging and marking trailers known as the “AutoFish” system, a computer operated automated system that counts, sorts by size and rapidly fin clips and tags fish at a rate of over 7,000 fish per hour. The fish are never out of water and never anesthetized. The Fish and Wildlife Service owns four automated trailers that are moved among hatcheries in the Great Lakes region (see map) to tag fish for lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation also owns one automated trailer and is used to mark fish for lakes Erie and Ontario.



-GreatLakesMass-MarkingTeam

An AutoFish fish marking/tagging trailer is set up at Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery.

Numbers of fish tagged and clipped by the Service by year and species



For more information please contact:

Charles Bronte

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

2661 Scott Tower Drive

New Franken, WI 54229

920/866-1761

Charles_Bronte@fws.gov



-USFWS/Jim Webster

Mass marking biologists Kevin Pankow (left background) and Elliot Hoffman (right foreground) operate the AutoFish™ Trailer.

The Great Lakes Fish Tag and Recovery Laboratory, located at the Green Bay Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, provides coded-wire tagging, tag recovery, and science support services to state and tribal agencies that stock trout and salmon into the Great Lakes, as well as for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest and Northeast Regions' lake trout restoration programs. The lab was established in 2010 at the request of the Council of Lake Committees, Great Lakes Fishery Commission to develop a basin-wide program to tag or mark (fin clip) all (18-23 million) trout and salmon stocked into the Great Lakes. This coordinated effort among all management agencies will provide greater insight into the levels of natural reproduction of both native and non-native fish, the relative survival and contributions of stocked fish, the ability to manage harvest away from wild fish, and evaluation of hatchery operations.

When fully funded, the Great Lakes Fish Tag and Recovery Laboratory will provide:

- Program coordination between the U.S. and Canada
- All marking services to all U.S. fish hatcheries
- Tag extraction and reading services
- Database management and programming services
- Tag recovery efforts in cooperation with states and tribes
- Experimental design and analytical services
- Ownership and maintenance of all equipment in the U.S.
- Possible contractual arrangement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to tag Canadian fish with all technical services (database, head shop, statistician) available to the Canadian program

The Great Lakes Mass Marking Program is currently funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and represents a high level of science coordination among agencies and broad spatial scales of the Great Lakes basin.